

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 217205
ORIGIN AF-10

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DRAFTED BY AF/WRJKOTT
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, NI

SUBJECT: AMERICAN WEST AFRICAN FREIGHT CONFERENCE (AWAFC):
LOSS OF BERTH 9: BAN ON 15 YEAR OLD SHIPS

REF: A) LAGOS 10364; B) LAGOS 9593; C) LAGOS 9035

1. LOSS OF BERTH 9: JOHN CUNNINGHAM OF AWAFC RECEIVED
FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM AWAFC REP IN LAGOS, QUOTE:
1) GOOD NEWS RE YOUR 97 PARAGRAPH 4 ON LETTER QUOTED
BELOW RECEIVED FROM MR. H.M. OTUOZE ACTING PORT MANAGER
HEADED OCCUPATION OF BERTH 9 QUOTE YOU WILL RECALL THE
RECENT MEETING HELD WHEREIN IT WAS AGREED UPON THAT BERTH
NO 9 WILL BE OCCUPIED BY THE AUTHORITY'S ENGINEERS WITH
A VIEW TO REACTIVATING THE WATER HYDRANTS PASSING THROUGH
THE BERTH THAT ARE NOW LYING DERELICT PARAGRAPH I AM
HAPPY TO INFORM YOU THAT AFTER FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF
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THE IMPLICATIONS INVOLVED IT HAS NOW BEEN DECIDED THAT THE
ENGINEERING DEPT OF THE AUTHORITY WILL BARRICADE THE AREA
UPON WHICH WORK IS TO BE CARRIED OUT FOR SAFETY REASONS
INSTEAD OF OCCUPYING THE WHOLE LENGTH OF THE BERTH STOP
THIS IN EFFECT MEANS THAT VESSELS WILL CONTINUE TO DIS-
CHARGE AT THE BERTH WHILE WORK IS BEING CARRIED OUT.
UNQUOTE.

CUNNINGHAM SEEKS EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN CLARIFYING APPARENT DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THIS MESSAGE AND REFTEL A. PER PARA TWO, REFTEL A., CUNNINGHAM STILL HAS NOT RECEIVED TELEGRAM FROM NPA'S TUKUR. REQUEST EMBASSY INTERCESSION TO ENSURE THAT AWAFK DOES NOT LOOSE USE OF BERTH 9 EVEN TEMPORARILY. REPORT RESULTS TO DEPARTMENT SOONEST.

2. CUNNINGHAM EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT INFORMATION CONTAINED PARA TWO, REFTEL C. NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH INFORMATION HE RECEIVED. AWAFK UNDER IMPRESSION THAT DEFERRMENT OF BAN ON 15 YEAR OLD SHIPS IS FOR 90 DAYS RATHER THAN TIL END OF YEAR AS REPORTED BY EMBASSY. WHAT IS EMBASSY UNDERSTANDING OF "DEFERRED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE" PER REFTEL B? IN SEEKING INFORMATION FOR REPLY TO THIS QUESTION, EMBASSY SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT APPROACH FMG SOURCES AS WE BELIEVE THIS MAY ONLY SERVE AS INSPIRATION FOR FMG TO CHOOSE AN OPTION THAT WOULD PROVE INIMICAL TO AWAFK.

CHRISTOPHER

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